GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1629
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
POLLUTION IN RIVERS
Singh Shri Lakshman

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution in rivers is increasing each year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to include more rivers, which are currently not under National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) While the pollution loads generated by the ever increasing urban population in the cities/towns located on the banks of rivers exert pressure on the Water Quality, various pollution abatement works taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) go towards mitigating the pollution levels in rivers. With the completion of the works of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I (1985-2000) as well as projects undertaken under GAP Phase-II (1995 onwards), notwithstanding the substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past years, its water quality has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality.

Schemes of pollution abatement of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) are presently under implementation in 160 towns spread over 20 States covering 34 rivers of the country. Inclusion of more rivers under NRCP from time to time would depend upon the availability of fund in the XI Plan, feasibility of the proposals received from the State Governments and State Governments` commitment to provide the matching share, being 30% of the total project cost.